



**KINSTON/LENOIR COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019
5:30 PM – KINSTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicholas Harvey, (Chair)
Rosalyn Yarus
Kelly Jarman
Merwyn Smith
Christopher Bradshaw

Ed Futrell
Nathan Perry
Dr. Gary Wojeski
Sue Ellen Maddux

MEMBERS ABSENT

Felicia Solomon
Amanda Sawyer
Sonya Berry
Steve Saint-Amand
Dr. James Sylvia

The April, 2019 meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Nicholas Harvey. The March, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion–Futrell; Second – Bradshaw; Vote –Unanimous.

Mr. Harvey welcomed Sue Ellen Maddux to the commission. Sue Ellen replaced Laura McPhaul and will be representing the city.

The commission was introduced to the department’s three new employees: Shawn Hicks, Elijah Rouse and Evan Jarman. Shawn Hicks will be working at the Kinston Community Center as the Assistant Facility Director. Elijah Rouse will be working at Holloway Center as a Recreation Center Supervisor II and Evan Jarman will be working for the Parks Division as a Turf Maintenance Specialist. The commission welcomed the new employees to the Recreation Department.

Mr. Harvey informed the commission the Spring Special Olympics will be held at Kinston High School on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 and invited all commission members to come out and enjoy the games. Corey Povar also informed the commission that he and several other staff members visited the Special Olympics in Johnston County to observe their program and obtain new ideas to bring back to Lenoir County.

The commission discussed the Pink Hill internet tower/broadband service request that was brought to them at the March meeting by Susan Meyers and Al Rachide. The commission made a motion to defer the decision of the installation of the internet tower to the owners of the property, which is Lenoir County.

Motion – Perry; Second – Bradshaw; Vote – Unanimous.

Corey Povar updated the commission on the Lions Water Adventure Swim Club Contract. This group will now take over the day to day operations of the water park to include the hiring, training and marketing of the park while it is open for the season. The city will maintain the space and perform the routine maintenance. The Swim Club will take on the liability of the park during the operating months. The Kinston Community Center will still be taking reservations for birthday parties and events at the park. This group’s goal is to hire locally. However, since some of the lifeguards and concession employees leave when school begins, the group will be hiring through a K1 Visa program (comparable to cruise ship employees) from overseas. The staff will be Red Cross certified.

Corey Povar updated the commission on the youth baseball program since the switch was made from Babe Ruth to Little League. He stated that everyone seems to be on board with the change and the numbers have not dropped but remained consistent from last year.

Corey Povar discussed dissolving the Moss Hill Ruritan Building rental contract with the commission. He stated that the contract between the Recreation Department and the Moss Hill Ruritans expired in 2012 and the building is in need of major repairs (new HVAC, roof replacement,

ADA accessible restrooms). Also, the building is not bringing in enough revenue to offset the cost of maintaining it. The department only has one (1) full-time maintenance employee and two (2) part-time employees who maintain all recreation ballfields in Lenoir County, as well as the Nature Park, campground, ponds, Rotary Dog Park, Wildlife ramp, Hwy 70 boat ramp and many other county owned facilities as well.

A motion was made to dissolve the contract between the Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Department and the Moss Hill Ruritans and to give back the building to the Moss Hill Ruritan Club.

Motion – Maddux; Second – Futrell; Vote – Unanimous.

Corey Povar discussed the increased number of basketball tournaments that are being held in recreation gyms throughout the city. Most of the individuals holding these tournaments are charging entry fees and selling concessions and the city is not collecting revenue from the rental of the gyms or proceeds from the tournaments. He recommended charging \$300/day/gym/site for all tournaments which must be paid prior to the tournament date. The rental must be made through the department's reservation system and paid in full before the gym will be reserved. He stated that one individual has been granted a discounted rate of \$150/day/gym/site only if he agrees to offer free programs to youth in the centers. If not, the rate will increase to the above \$300 rate/day/gym/site.

A motion was made to charge the recommended rate of \$300/day/gym/site for tournaments held in the city/county facilities (**excluding the Kinston Community Center**) and also to **not** reduce the gymnasium rate at the Kinston Community Center Gymnasium for any type of tournament.

Motion – Jarman; Second – Perry; Vote – Unanimous.

Chris Bradshaw questioned where we stand with the Kinston Kingfish Swim Club contract. There has been nothing done on this and the commission requested that the contract be revisited.

Sue Ellen Maddux commented that the parks are not being maintained like they used to and requested that more effort be made to keep the parks looking clean.

Corey Povar informed the commission that the Down East Wood Ducks were applying for a grant to help with Fairfield Park by hauling in dirt, painting dug outs, etc, which would make that park look better. Also, he hopes to add money in the 20/21 budget to purchase another playground at Fairfield Park. He informed the commission that his focus currently is on Emma Webb Park and he is looking into applying for various grants that would help renovate Emma Webb.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion – Wojeski; Second; Yarus; Vote – Unanimous.

Debra A. Wicker
Secretary to the Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Commission